Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for network route control, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a connection between a general purpose computer and an

5 arrangement for linking said computer to multiple internet service providers (ISPs);

measuring relevant performance and availability metrics of said links;

and said computer directs network traffic to the best link based upon said relevant

performance and availability metrics.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said connection is accomplished

10 through Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS) switched paths.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said connection is accomplished

through Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) tunnels.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said connection is accomplished

using Internet protocol (IP)-level tunnels.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability metric is network delay.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability metric is network loss.

7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability metric is network throughput.

8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability metric is application-layer response time.

9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability metric is cost.

10. An apparatus permitting a general purpose computer to perform route control, the apparatus comprising:

an arrangement for establishing a link between a general purpose computer and multiple internet service providers (ISPs);

an arrangement allowing said computer to measure at least one relevant performance metric of said links; and

an arrangement allowing said computer to select the best route based upon said link performance.

11. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said link is accomplished through Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS) switched paths.

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12. The apparatus according to Claim 10,wherein said link is accomplished through Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) tunnels.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said link is accomplished using internet protocol (IP)-level tunnels.

14. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the relevant performance

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metric is network delay.

15. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the relevant performance metric is network loss.

16. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the relevant performance metric is network throughput.

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17. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the relevant performance metric is application-layer response time.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the relevant performance metric is cost.

19. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for general

5   purpose computer route control, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a connection between a general purpose computer and arrangements for linking to multiple internet service providers (ISPs);

measuring relevant performance metrics of said links;

and said computer directs network traffic to the best link based upon said relevant

10   performance and availability metrics.